

# Employees participate in competitions at John Adams Middle School

Story and photo by Rebecca Perez

In December the Albuquerque District assisted John Adams Middle School (JAMS) with its annual Science Fair and Spelling Bee competitions. Students from 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades participated in the Science Fair and volunteers from the District helped judge the projects.

The students showed great interest in Science and Engineering and their projects were incredible. Many of them spent a great deal of time preparing their projects so they would be proud to represent their school.

The volunteers from the District were Maj. David Bailey, Kathleen Bennett, Lawrence Chavez, Dennis Christensen, Joan Coffing, Susan Gant, Danielle Pecastaing and



**Susan Gant talks to a student at John Adams Middle School about her science fair project.**

Chris Velasquez. While I'm sure each one of them enjoyed themselves during the Science Fair, they each took their role very seriously and helped to make the event fair to all students involved. Judges were responsible for judging the projects alone as well as interviewing the

students about their projects. Their help is much appreciated and we look forward to participating in the event again next school year.

Also in December, JAMS held its annual Spelling Bee. Again participants included students from 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades. This year's Spelling Bee was very successful with the top five finishers receiving prize money for their efforts.

The pronouncer for the even was Mike Guerin.

Judges were Gary Lopez, Tony Gilbert and Rebecca Perez. We appreciate all the volunteers who helped make these events a success. We have had a longtime partnership with John Adams Middle School and look forward to participating in many more events in the future. ■

## Family Focus

(Continued from page 6)

of you may think that he is already a Corps employee, but he is actually coming to us from the Bureau of Reclamation. Congratulations to Mark and best of luck on your new position with us.

Congratulations to **Gary Rutherford** who has been selected for the GS-13 Continuing Authorities Program Manager position in the Civil Works Planning and Project Management Branch.

Congratulations to **Mark Mendenhall**, who just received notice that he passed his Fundamentals of Engineering (EIT) exam! Mark is a SCEP (co-op student) in Hydrology and Hydraulics Section. Congratulations Mark and best of luck in the future.

It is with great sadness that we report the

passing of **William (Bill) R. Erdman**, a former Corps employee. Bill was a long time Electrical Engineer with the Corps from 1949-1974 and died at the age of 77 on January 19. A memorial service was held on January 24 at Strong-Thorne Mortuary in Albuquerque.

*(Editor's Note: Rebecca Perez, who writes this column and several other articles for the Rip Rap, is leaving the Public Affairs Office to accept a promotion to a Student Cooperative Education Program position in the Resource Management Office. Rebecca has made invaluable contributions to the Public Affairs office during the three years she has worked here and will be sorely missed. We all, however, congratulate her on this new opportunity and wish her the best of luck!)*